TREESE WILDLING WILDLING

## TAPPING THE CURRENTS

## Thieves Who Steal Power and Light From Electric Wires.

SOME CASES IN THIS CITY

A Reputable Merchant Who Went Into the Robbery of Lightning on a Large Scale-"Queer" Wire Leading Into an F Street Store-Stock Quotations on the Sly.

Steading thunder is old as Shakespeare. but steading lightning is newer than the telephone. It is only in the past tener fifteen years that thefts of the electric current have some to be noticed or guarded against

and nere important of stock quotations and trule retors and of racing returns; but fureers of excuracity mould for commercial purposes is a recens discovery.

In larger ottes, where there are a number of electric companies furnishing power for all normer of carchinery, as well as are and incondescent lights, and in which the wars are carried in and out with very little regulation by the authorates, are to be found expers electricians who make a living by puring to wires for secretly rapping the currents of the great companies and governe the use of their power without

This is post conveniently done where the wine massmar the rurbaccol the ground in a hidden corner. The electricism watches his apportunity and when there is no Ballfood that are employe of the company owning the wire, will be around, be juite to his loop.

The decreations, the declinate places.

by, not ever the points. If the one asks what he is dearg, he replies that be it repairing the resolution its wire, and his questioner of pastle answer without question, to know a nothing to the contrary and

#### WIRE-TAPPER'S EXCUSE.

Even if a minor employe of the electric accepanty happens along, the wire-tapper care any shall as an amplion of the Some pany and time look cone to make some changes in trul particular locality.

The other man not knowing everybody in the company's employ, samuel sint; i If there is canger that he will go to the office and report, the true mecessary for turn to on time wall be ample for exemp-So there is practically little conger of

Then the prosecution is no casy matter The laws relating to hireeny do not exactly long before spels a tions was thought of Accordingly, just as many a man time got such by sectling another's ichies with impunity, so some men light their locate or run their machinery by stealing the electric current, with little fear of punish-

The putting in of the loop is no very difficult task. If the place for work is convenient it can be done in half on hour to an hour. An opening is made to the live wire, and then with the greatest care, by

Everything is ready. Insulators are put in place. The ends of the company wire desired for electric lighting, the apparatus for making use of the current has already

The efficiency can be rested in a few momenus and the current cut off at a point where the change will be least likely to give most into this wriththoughthought a clifrent of Water can be carried where it is

MANAGING THE CURRENT It fact, the electric current is much more

easily managed than a stream of water, except at the critical moment of outting the wire of of making the new connection When the Wire is overhead the difficulty

is considerably increased, but the electrical nections for using the current dishonestly when his work is legitimate. In th air he must find some means of holding the wire stretched as well as to take off the Of course, it is also harder to escan

detection by some one who knows that he has no business at work on the wires. For this reason be usually chooses the top of a lushy tree, where the leaves are thickest in summer. He follows the wire till it passes through such a tree.
If necessary, his elimities necessary, his climbing from are put

on, then he is up among the boughs in a ment. A U-shaped piece of steel with clamps and insulators, has been provided foor the occasion. He gingerly cuts the wire, cotches the end and fastens them together with the piece of steel.

The insulators break the current, and

there is a snace of an inch or two between the cut extremities, and in this be inserts the two ends of his loop of copper and slips own. He then carries his wire anywhere Lopicases, being careful not to excite investigation by keeping the line open too long. STEALING QUOTATIONS.

Buch tapping as this is done oftenest for the purpose of getting news or reports. An instance is known where the stock quotations from New York were stolen in this way for more than a year without detec-

Another case is where a man is alleged to have tapped the racing wire here as it crossed Long Bridge. Such circumstances as this are common. The most remarkable on record probably is that of last year, when one of the press associations as It found a man taking off its report from his peculiar actions, says the St. Louis

wire going into its Chicago office.
Some experiments have been made with success where the wire was not actually but a side conductor was simply applied, by which a sufficient quantity of electricity was drawn from a heavy current to run a small mechanism or to supply two or three incandescent lights.

be case of most frequent larceny of the mercial current is where a customer company wants more electricity that he feels like paying for. He gets an crician to tap the current in a place enled from view before it reaches meter. Then he can use all the current wants, but only pays for so much as

es through the meter.
Shoust practices, such as described, ar detected in many ways, but usually the first indication of anything wrong is b; measurement-of the power, generated and comparison, with the quantity paid for. The instruments for measuring the electric current have been brought to such perfection that a very exact account can

The only difficulty is that there are many possibilities of a leak, or of a number of leaks, instead of theft. An expert goes over the line and finds on which is the v . e. whenever the instruments show considerable loss

WHY THEY OBJECT. It is of course much ensier to go over



a line overhead time an underground system and this is one of the reasons why the conpance so strengonsly object to putting their

wires under the surface.
General Superintendent Clark of the United States Electric Lighting Comc farmishing fight and power here, when extent about thetts of electricity, said

"There is not much of that kind of thing here. We have had one or two cases, but not enough to give us much trouble. We have always been able to detect the thefts, and to put a step to them."

The fact that the one company fur-

usher nearly all the electricity for the floatier makes it emier to find out the thieves. A story is tald, however, of a business pince that was lighted with incandescents for a long time and the com-pany supplied the current without know and the thieving were are joined, and the ling it. The store was some distance from loop is run to where it is wanted. If it is any wire. The nearest was an are light og it. The store was some distance from on a tall fron standard.

because in displace, and disconly accessary trains and the tight turned on an official to make the connections. of the company passed that way. He was pretty familiar with the names of customers, but he could not recall the owner of the store as one of them. He said nothing, warning of any interruption to the regular but when at the office he booked exer-work of the circuit thus tapped. If at the books and found that his memory when at the office he looked over any time the use of an electric fan or a small was correct. Still the merchant was a electric engine is desired the current can be reputable man, and he besnated to ace him of wrong doing.

rate electric light plants had been put in recently, but could not discover that any had been seat to this particular place

#### TOLD A PLAUSIBLE STORY.

The metchant's answer was that his ight was furnished from his own plant and made with so much frankness that the inquirer had not the face to ask to see with the gentlemen. Another man was ent to see the plant, but the store was closed on account of a funeral. A third inquirer wentaways:disfied. The case was dropped and the merchant moved away. This was

eight or ten years ago Another case was of a wire that hung ong the poles in F street for some months. and wassuspected by the experts as "queer. Its use was finally detected, and the owner of the place into which it went was po litely informed that it must be removed. He acceded to the request and nothing more

was said. Similar to the thefts of electricity are constonal cases of cutting gas pipes put under the floor near the meter and putting in pipes for a supply that does not torn the indicator and run up the bill. These are, however, comparatively rare,

and are quickly detected. The most unusual larceny of the kind n this city, was where a houskeeper on Capitol Hill, removed part of the wall be tween him and his neighbor and opened up kept his house warm all winter,

## NO GOLDBUG, THIS.

George Burns Has Silver in His Head and Keeps It There.

The police at Quincy, Ill., have arrested Seorge Burns and detained him on account of Globe-Democrat. It was discovered that there was a cause for his ecceptricity. He had papers which showed that he was the head engineer on the steamer City of Savannah, which was wrecked off the coast of Massachusetts on January 18, 1884, while en route from Boston to Florida. He was reversing the levers when the steamer struck the rocks, and he was thrown into the machinery, receiving injuries which crip; pled him for life.

There were 118 lives lost in the accident. and Burns is one of the 37 survivors. For a long while he lay on a cot in the death of Bellevue Hospital, New York. Dr. Hayes Agnew attended his case, and emoved five ribs from his left side and trephined his skull, using six ounces of iver sheeting for this purpose. He was compelled to wear a plaster-of-paris jacket for four years after the accident.

A portlott of the lower end of his spine and both efflow joints are gone. One knee: ap is on the back of the leg and his heart is on the extreme right of his body. He is now 64 years of age, and walks very well and has a cheerful disposition. He s a member of the G. A. R. and served during the war on the ironclad gunboat which was stationed at Cairo during the early days of the rebellion.

The Evening Times is the paper that everybody buys:

## CATCHING THE CRAWFISH

#### Queer and Exclusive Trade Which Caters to Washingtonians.

DELICACY FOR EPICURES

Where Kearney, the Isaak Walton of Crawfish, Lives-How He Catches. the Foxy Crustacean, How They Are Cooked and Distinguished People Who Eat Them.

Pedestrians who have wandered along he Virginia shore of the Potemac, about a balt mile north of crime-infested Jack son City, have suddenly come upon a little wooden structure, which has an interest-

fington city's most novel and exclusive inmiddle-aged white man named Thomas Kearney and two colored men, who are engaged in crawlish catching.

The catchery house is a queer-looking affair, representing a siyle of architecture. poor whites and negroes in the backwoods counties of some of the Southern like angel food." States. It is situated at a point on the shore nearly opposite the Treasury buildme, where the yellow sandy beach merges

of thicket and foliage.
The building is a one-story affair, and by the gales of many years, while the pelling rain and flying snow have so discolored the structure that at a distance it resubles a mound of dark earth. The house ans, too, like the famous tower of Pier its attitude is such that a young Washington lawyer, while enjoying a river bank outing with some friends the other day, was prompted to remark:

therically toward Arlington, the white

ity of the dead " A QUEER INDUSTRY.

Crawfish catching, as it is carried on for select Washington patronage at the little atchery across the river, is an interesting but tedious task. These little crusta which have the funny and awkward habit of walking backwards, are wary game, and therefore not so easily captured. They inhabit the bottom of the river where it is shallow and the marine grasses grow

Creeping about with their rears to the front and their fronts to the rear, they capture and devour the small water insects that move about with such rapidity. A crawfish will lie perfectly motionless on the bottom of the stream, with his claws folded, placifly awaiting the coming of the flighty water beetle. This little inect, mistaking the gray back of the crustacean for a stone, will glide close to it. Then like a flash out goes the south paw of the crawfish, and with a snap like the closing of a steel trap the beetle is seized and passed piecemeal into the odd-looking

mouth of its captor. Crawfish also feed upon the spawn of fish and tadpoles, but the water beetle is their favorite food and gives the backslider the peculiar flavor which is so much enjoyed by epicures. In some parts of the country the crawfish is known as the crayfish. It is a crustacean of the genus lobster, but considerably smaller in size and only found in fresh water

HOW KEARNEY DOES IT. Kearney, the owner of the catchery, employs several methods of capturing the little delicacies. His most successful one

is the use of long lines, on which he ties bunches of water beetles. These lines are used as trawls and dragged gently through the grass. The crawfish upon seeing the beetles follows them to the surface and is cooped in with a small net and confined in a wicker basket containing a mass of moist water grasses. Like other members of the shell fish

family, especially the crab, a crawfish is worthless for all purpose after it dies, They must be cooked while still alive. Kearney, the crawfish man, was in talkative mood when seen by the reporter been in the business six years and has a perfect monopoly. "You see," he said, "they're such

Evacuating Port Arthur. St. Petersburg, Aug. 24.-A dispatch to the Novosti from Vladivostock says the Japanese are evacuating Port Arthur and dismantling all of the fortifications there.

troublesome creatures to catch that no-body else cares to back against me, and I lave things pastty much all my own How many do you can'th on an everage

ach day?" | \_\_;"
"That's a hard one. On calm days when the water in clear we will land from ten to thirty dozens. When the water is not moddy we can catch them with our scoop nets without using the lines."

"To whom do you mostly sell them?" "The Chinese, They are dead stuck on fricenseed craw fish or a sort of soup they make from them." Kearney said the formerly carried his

waters across the Long Bridge in baskets and peddled them among his rations. Within the past year, however, the supply has nowhere near equalled the demand and be can sell all be catches without leaving his riverside shanty. The China men come over to his place singly and in pairs and groups, principally after night-fall and carry the craw lish back to their laundries to be consumed at the midnight

WHERE THEY ARE EATEN.

Not all of Kearney's costomers are Chinacer to the catchery twice each week and purchases all the crustaceans the pro-prictor can spare. He sells them, he says, and their friends should bear in mind that dustries. The building is the home of n , at the residences of several of the foreign | the committee looks to all to take an interisters, including the Chinese emba

where they are considered a rare delicacy. "One of my best customers," said the craw-fisherman, "is the Reeper of a Chinese restaurant over Quotig Sang Lung's hig store on Pennsylvania avenue. He brought which has long been in vogue among the me over a dish of prepared craw-fish the

What do I charge for them? "Well, when they are scarce I get as high as 50 cents a dozen, but in July and and blends into a dark green background | the first part of August, when the river grass is full of craw-fish. I reduce the price per dozen to 35 cents. You see there has been knocked almost into a cocked hat are three of us, and we have to work hard to catch the backsiders. They are as cute

as a fex and as coming as an rel-Kearney said that President Arthur was very fond of crawfish saind, and used to but the titale sliders from an old colored man who lived near Roslyn. He had an expert cook in the White House kitchen, who could make them into a dish fit for the gods.

Crawfish have a gamey flavor, and when properly prepared form a very palatable dish. The favorite way to prepare them is to make the mass of shelled flesh, after the fish have been boiled and picked, into a salad, using fresh country butter before serving.

#### NOT A VOODOO, BUT A COOK. James Phillips Arrested Charged With

Defrauding People. James Phillips, a well-dressed young

plored man, was locked up at Lieut. Keity's station by Policeman D. J. Lynch last evening on the charge of being a suspicious character under the yagrane act. Phillips is what the colored people term a charmist, or voodoo doctor.

According to the statement of several colored women, including Lizzie Green, of Jackson street northeast, Phillips from house to house yesterday afternoon among the colored residents of the above byway, urging them to have their fortunes told. He carried with him a pack of greasy playing cards and a piece of horseshoe. With this parapherualia the charm ist claimed that he could foretell th future, or make the rough places in life smooth; restore levers; bring back truant husbands; bring about an era of plenty, or punish encaues, by placing a bad luck

shadow, or hooden over them. Phillips is a cut rate fortune teller, and would accept any fee from 3 cents to as many dollars. He always maintained, however, that if his patron would cover the palm of his right hand with silver money, the charm would be more potent. When asked what he used the half horseshoe for, Phillips replied;

"That gin't a hoss shoe. It cum offin a white mule. I jess carries it fer a He stoutly denied being a fortune teller, and said he had been playing "five up" all

"I ain't a voodog, but a cook, and works in the kitchen of the House of Representa-tives when Congress is in session." Phillips will be tried by Judge Scott in the police court this morning.

> Chicago Athletic Club. The bowlers look forward to a successful season, and hope this year if there is a league

## AMONG LOCAL ATHLETES

Doings in Amateur Circles on Land and Water.

ECHOES OF THE REGATTA

Aquatic Parade Will Be Held Later. Joint Club Excursion-Plea for an Earlier Regatta-Boston Labor Day Races-Gymnastic Championships. Carroll Institute's New Alleys.

The day which is fuller of auxiety and interest than any other day in all the calendar of the local rowing men has come and

This year's Potemac River regatta is a thing of the past, and to-day the boathous balconies and focker-rooms fairly bubble over with aquaticiors, and the men with the "I-tobi-you so" racket are as thick as unckieberries in July.

The winners are filled with pleasant recollections, and go over the hard struggle of yesterday with light hears and smiling faces, tempering their expressions with sympathy and consideration for their less fortunate brethren, as all true sportsmen should. The losers ait glum and thoughtful, wondering "how in the world it all came to happen."

It is the same old story, the same old picture of the aftermath of each year's rematta.

The regatta was a success in every way, and the regalla committee has much, very much, cause to be proud of the result of

To Chairman Offley and Secretary Fincher specially are due great credit for their ricessing efforts, and Chairman of the Re-reption Committee Benner and his assistauts are likewise entitled to praise for good

AN EARLIER DATE NECESSARY. Winie there were a number of good out-of-town crews, there would have been very many more if an earlier date had been fixed for holding the event. Many crews go out of training right after the national regulta, unless a regulta, such as surs, is assounced to be held soon after the national event. It behooves future regards com-mittees to bear this in mind and to chape heir arrangements and dates accordingly, if they wish large entry lists.

It is still my opinion that the Potemac lüver regatta can be made second to none in the provincial association regattas, but enthusiasm and not lukewarmners.

The success of the event yesterday must be attributed largely to the spiendid arrangement of the course; buoys and the police supervision, at and near the timeb. which was at all times clear. The largest meed of praise for the success is due to the very fair and impartial and firm and prompt W Statzell, of the Schrylkill Navy, made his decisions. Such work as his is lideed praiseworthy, and should be made an ample to others who are called upon to fill a most trying position.

EXCURSION AND AQUATIC PARADE. In the hurry and worry of completing arrangements for the regatta the squatic lamern parade, which was intended to lend up to it was dropped temporarily. It was found that it would take up too much time to properly prepare. It is probable that it will be held before the season

The principal item of saterest in the minds of the members of the regatta committee is the joint club excursion to be held of Toesday evening, the 27th instant. To importance of the success of this affair is very great, as upon it the committee de nen. A Frenchman named Brossins goes | pends for the funds necessary to pay off indebtednesses incurred in holding the reit a financial success. It is the first time in the history of the three clubs that they have joined in an excursion, and this fact, as well as the payel features to be presented should ful the Macalester on Tuesday even

NEW ENGLAND'S FALL REGATTA The Labor Day regards at Boston will be rowed over the Charles River course and will be the seventh annual fall regatta of the New England Amateur Rowing Association, and, as usual promises to

be a most successful affair, The city fathers of Eoston annually appropriate an amount sufficient to pay for the prizes and necessary expenses and i an example which might with profit be followed by this and other cities. It is possible that one of our local crews may be errored in the event. The only time time our city was represented there was when the Columbia Athletic Club had a junior eight there which won in handsome

The events will be junior and intermediat singles, doubles, junior and senior fours cights in the three classes, working boats and war canoes for nine men

GYMNASTIC CHAMPIONSHIP The second annual meeting for the de ision of the amateur gymnastic champion hip of the Atlantic Association of the A A. U. will be held at the Winter Circus Philadelphia on September 7 and 8, at

o'clock p. m. The championship events will be hori ontal bar, parallel bars, flying rings, rope climbing, vaulting horse, side and ear, and club swinging. There will also be a special all around competition to include all of the above, except club winging and rope climbing. First, second, and third prizes will be

Entries close with J. W. Kelly, jr., cretary, P. O. Eox 455, Philaedlphia, in the 30th instant. What a splendid opportunity the chamion gymnastic of the C.A. C. of carrying off several of the top prizes

Why not enter the local champions?

COLUMBIA ATHLETIC CLUB. Now that the racing season is over on this river, the rowing men of the Columbia Ath-letic Club, like those of the other clubs. will devote some of their time to their own amusement and pleasure rowing will be prominent feature.

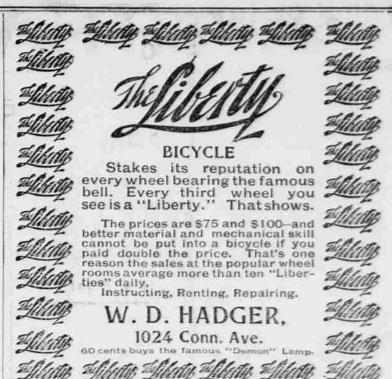
re not sorry the training season is over Capt. Baker deserves much credit for the long siege of work he has put in. The indoor athletes and the football men will now get their heads together for the

The men bave stuck at it a long time, and

all and winter campaign. Prof. Crossley will take a look over the apparatus in the "gym," and get it in shape. Prospects are promising for large classes in gymnastic work, and work of even a high er standard will be accomplished by the gymnasts and acrobats on the professor's

Capt. Wells hopes to get a stronger football team than last year's eleven. He is already in correspondence with strong teams, arranging for games, among the most prominent of these who hope to come on for a game is the "star" eleven of the

to land the championship. There will be several new faces on the



basket-hall teom, which will be as stron if not stronger than last year's champions There is still a possibility of nolding an open full outdoor championship meet-ing on Columbia field, and influsious are the C. A. C. in holding such an event. The field and track are in excellent condition. A number of the members

are away on vacation, and consequently name of the "old gard" are missing at the big club house on G street. ANALOSTAN BOAT CLUB.

Captain Moore, of the Analostan Boot Club, is well satisfied with the work of his rowing men, and preficie next senson with more experience and seasoning some (ast crews in the old club. Lauis Frecher will leave to day for Atlanta o prepare the Covernment exhibit of

He worked hard before and during the regatta week, and deserves a recre Piensure rowing will new have full swing, and humerous up-river paties are being arranged, especially considering the time when full moon is on the card. The phases of the mon are carefully noted by the members, even going so far as to display them on the bulletin board, and moonlight nights sends all the pleasure

There is some talk of organising a ball team in the club. A good team should be gotten out with such players on hand as Whiting, Taylor, Hine, Fischer, Moore, Lewis, Ludhan and Howard.

POTOMAC BOAT CLUB. Many of the rowing members of the Po-tomac Boat Club will leave this week

upon well-earned vacations, and the usua duliness which comes over all boat houses after a regard will pervade this one. Copt. Officy is of course pleased that the affair is over, and he deserves much credit for the uncensing attention and hard work he has put into the season's

training. He has developed some good Pursue has one of the prettiest single shells that ever found a home in the local boat houses. It is of bright cedar and weighs just twenty-four pounds, rigged. She is well braced, and of course carries nerself well, and has a ten-inch beam and s thirty-one feet six inches long and i built to carry 132 pounds. It is fully equipped with modern roller seats and row-

The shell will serve as a model for futare local orders, and was made under the personal supervision of William Glass &

son, of Philippelphia. The regular formightly hop will be given on Friday evening next. Capt. Shepherd has recovered from his recent illness, and is again in his accus-

tomed seat in the baleony. He is awaiting the arrival of his sails and musts to finish up his "Nancy" sleep, and when this is CARROLL INSTITUTE ATHLETICS. very warm, the gynanasiom classes of Carroll Institute will begin work on or about September 2.

hey will have suitable alleys to bowl upon during the coming League season. A special committee has been placed in charge of the matter, and it will see that the alleys to be put in are of the best design and make. e old alleys have been taken up, and the foundation has been gone over, and the builder is now a waiting the arrival of certain selected wood, upon the receipt of which the work will be posted rapidly forward. and it is hoped to complet O. P. SCHMIDT.

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